

# Working Together For Newark's Kids

*Governor Christie Has Worked With Mayor Booker And Other Democrats To Ensure A High-Quality Education For All New Jersey's Children, Regardless Of Zip Code*

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Today, joined by Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Governor Christie participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Teachers Village. The \$150 million, 425,000-square-foot complex includes three charter schools, a day care center, more than 200 apartments pre-marketed to teachers and more than 70,000 square feet of retail space. The Teachers Village was designed by world-renowned architect and Newark native Richard Meier.

This project joins a long list of bipartisan efforts to expand educational opportunities for the children of Newark and their families, and will greatly enhance the image of the Brick City.

## PUTTING THE RIGHT PERSON IN CHARGE

Throughout his term in office, Governor Christie has acted on his promise to implement bold education reforms across New Jersey that put results for children first. In May 2011, he named Cami Anderson Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools. Since taking over the troubled school system, Ms. Anderson has helped broker a landmark teacher contract and helped to close chronically failing schools. In addition she has opened eight new schools and expanded charter school options for students across the city.

Anderson's work for the kids of Newark has earned her bipartisan praise from across the political spectrum. [Mayor Booker](#) called her "a modern-day freedom fighter, investing her life's work in the educational trenches and working to liberate our country from the destructive delusion that children can't achieve at the highest levels just because they were born into tough circumstances," while the [Star-Ledger](#) wrote that, "she is shaking up a system that sorely needed it, scoring solid wins for the kind of bipartisan reforms endorsed by both Christie and President Obama."

## WORKING WITH ALL INVESTED PARTIES ON COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE NEW JERSEY'S SCHOOLS

### Working With Teachers To Bring Performance-Based Pay To Newark Schools:

For the first time in New Jersey history, teachers in Newark will earn raises and be eligible for additional bonuses based on annual performance evaluations that include measuring student progress. This new contract enables Newark to retain and reward the best teachers and improve the quality of education for their students.

In 2012, the [Star-Ledger](#) editorialized that the "groundbreaking Newark teacher contract" is "good for teachers, kids," while the [New York Times](#) said it offered "hope that the quality of teaching will improve."

### Historic Bipartisan Changes To The Nation's Oldest Tenure Law:

Marking the first extensive reform of New Jersey's tenure law in over 100 years, Governor Christie signed into law the bipartisan Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act that overhauls the oldest tenure law in the nation.

The law was the result of nearly two years of consistent and vocal advocacy for real education reform by Governor Christie and good faith, bipartisan cooperation with members of the legislature, education reform advocates, and stakeholder groups.

## FOCUSING ON STUDENTS STUCK IN FAILING SCHOOLS

Putting the opportunity of a quality education within every child's reach, no matter where they live or their economic circumstances is an issue of vital importance to the future of the state and the country as a whole. Governor Christie has worked to improve the quality of urban education through key reforms.

### **Focusing On The Lowest Performing Schools:**

The Christie Administration has undertaken bold reform to turn around the state's persistently failing schools. As one of the first states in the country to receive flexibility from No Child Left Behind, the Department of Education is recognizing high performing "Reward" schools and shifting significant resources and support to "Priority" and "Focus" schools, those schools that are the lowest performing in the state or that have significant achievement gaps. The Department is providing the day-to-day support of dozens of expert educators through Regional Achievement Centers to help these schools improve.

### **Expanding Educational Opportunities For Children And Families:**

Governor Christie has improved the authorizing and application process, encouraged more charter school applicants, created greater flexibility with administration and finances, and allowed districts to convert failing public schools into charters. The Christie Administration has increased the overall number of charter schools in New Jersey to 87, opening 31 since the Governor took office.

### **The Urban Hope Act:**

The Urban Hope Act is designed to expand the education options available for children and parents who are trapped in some of New Jersey's school districts with the largest achievement gaps. The bill authorizes the creation of new renaissance schools in new facilities in three of our highest need districts: Camden, Trenton, and Newark.

### **Inter-District School Choice Program:**

The Inter-district School Choice Program was permanently signed into law by Governor Christie in September 2010 and implemented beginning with the 2011-12 school year. The program is designed to increase educational opportunities for students and their families by providing students with the option of attending a public school outside their district of residence without cost to their parents.

Enrollment has more than quadrupled over the past three years, from 964 students in 2010-11 to 4,682 students in 2013-14.